

CIRCULAR

OF THE

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF DESERET.

PATRONS OF LEARNING!

The citizens of the State of Deseret having established a University at Great Salt Lake City, the Chancellor and Board of Regents appointed to superintend the same, do hereby issue the following Circular to you. Hear us, and then judge. We do not ask your aid, unless we can give you good reasons why you should patronize our object.

We should despair of any assistance whatever, if we were not assured that our young Institution has greater claims than any other. We know that you are constantly assailed with the pretended claims of new things appealing to your sympathies, your prejudices, your hopes, & your fears. It is only wise men that can discriminate the true from the false. To them we appeal whether they are few or many. Here, is an Institution that you may patronize with safety, and your richest hopes will never be blasted. This Institution is like the foundling babe of the Hebrews. It is the child of providence and destined to live and flourish. However obscure its parentage in the valley of the wild and lofty mountains, however many the perils it has to encounter, it will live and shine in nature's simplest, brightest livery, and teach all nations all useful arts and sciences. This Institution is needed to meet the wants of thousands that annually emigrate to this Great Basin. Multitudes of all ages come from under the heavy hand of oppression, and desire instruction in order to be free, useful, and happy. This boon must be given them without respect to age or means. The emigrants and outcasts of all Nations will here find an asylum of safety, and a nursery of arts and sciences, available upon the cheapest terms. Here, instruction by means of Lectures or otherwise, will be brought to the level of the laboring classes of every grade, of every religious faith, of every political or social creed, and of every living language. It is neither arrogant or extravagant to say that this Institution is forthwith prepared to teach more living languages practically, than any other University on the face of the earth; and as to the matter of dead languages, we leave them mostly to the dead. The known industry of this people in rearing up cities and temples, with almost magic celerity, is not least visible in their system of diffusing a knowledge of the sciences throughout the popular mass. It is interwoven in the very fabric of this people's organization and progress to educate the mass and elevate all the people to the fullest extent of their capacity.

Board can soon be furnished in private families speaking the mother tongue of more than twenty living languages, of Europe, India, and the Islands of the Pacific, and Western America. Facilities for acquiring accurate intelligence from every portion of the Globe will be more perfectly secured to this Institution than to any other of our acquaintance. Correspondence will be kept up with persons in the service of the University living at London, Edinburgh, Paris, Rome, Copenhagen, and Calcutta.

Whatever is valuable in the laws and usages of Nations, or in their antiquities, whatever in the structure of diversified languages, or in practical mechanism, whatever in the fabric of Governments, or in domestic sociality, or in Pagan

or Christian ethics, or whatever in physical laws, or in laws regulating the communication of spirits, through cunning arts, or of angels good or evil, can be gleaned, that is valuable, we venture to say unhesitatingly, will be copiously poured into the lap of this Institution.

The greater part of the Capital requisite to secure these great and diversified objects are already in our possession. We possess the men, the master spirits of the nineteenth century, already on hand, waiting for the enterprise. A suitable fan is in our hand to cleanse the wheat, or in other words, we have an infallible detector by the aid of which we can save the good and cast the bad away. Do any doubt: What they do not believe shall be seen. The harvest is ripe. The painful throes and volcanic convulsions of Mighty Nations, forewarn all men to be on their watch-tower, and use a scrutinizing eye, lest they entertain the best system of education and the richest nursery of truth unawares. This is the Institution and heir of promise. Don't slight it, or cast away to perish like the beautiful foundling of the Hebrews, but nurse it with a few thousands, or hundreds of thousands: seeing it is a Heaven born infant, and you will not lose your wages. In so doing the blessings of thousands that now cannot read or write will come upon you. This Institution is not National or local. It is designed for all Nations without partiality or hypocrisy. Its only locality is the focal point of the Universal World, where all good men must see that it is the only point of retirement and rest from revolutionary convulsions now known: and the only Institution of the kind that is got up for all Nations, and is generous like the sun that shines upon the just and the unjust.

Let Christians, Sceptics, Pagans, Jews, Mohammedans, remember this institution with favor, for some of their brethren will be beneficiaries among us. A little surplus, invested here will bring you an hundred fold and show favor to the Lord. Giving some times enriches the giver.

Kings, Princes, and Potentates, look at this circular at this Institution; and this locality and hiding place; and then look at the little cloud that is gathering over your thrones, and consider.

Even you may yet want a safe home, and a hiding place from the storm of anarchy. Your sons and your daughters may here want culture, freedom and retirement. Like Solomon, you may yet want the opportunity, which this locality furnishes to trace the paths of nature up to nature's God. The salubrity and retirement of this locality, the expansive generosity and unity of this people, which is a portion of your former loyal subjects: ALL invite you most assuredly to send your names before your approaching flight, accompanied with gifts, incense, and precious treasures, to this new born infant of the mountains.

As the patriarch Joseph was sent as a pioneer into Egypt, in order to save his father's house in a day of famine and calamity, so is this great ingathering from all nations to this vast Basin of the Rocky Mountains, designed to prepare a retreat and resting place for rulers and subjects out of every nation. Religion, politics, literature, discrepant prejudices, private and public rights of individuals and large communities, all, can here meet on this loftiest platform of nature's heights, and enjoy the highest order of freedom, of individuality, and of community, that have so long been sought after by the great and good of all ages. The rim of this wonderful Basin descends from the snowy heights of the clouds almost to the level of tropical heat in time of summer. The composition of the soil surpasses in strength that of the vale of the Nile. The elements need only to be modified and compounded by the hand of art, in order to become productive beyond the conception of the most credulous. Ye rich men of every nation; and chieftains of untutored tribes; send this institution a portion of your treasures before revolutionary whirlwinds shall sweep it from you, and the poor will pay you fourfold in the resurrection of the just: rich bachelors, and maidens; admit it as your offspring, and the gratitude of thousands now grovelling in ignorance, will be a sweet and ever lasting memorial of your honored and blessed deed.

Graduates of colleges, and students of law, medicine, and theology, may here receive weekly lectures gratis. No persons will be denied the benefits of the university for want of pecuniary means. Donations may be paid over to Orson Pratt, Liverpool, England; to John Taylor, Paris, France; to Lorenzo Snow, Rome, Italy; to Erastus Snow, Copenhagen, Denmark; and to Orson Hyde, United States.

Done by order, and in behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of Deseret.

ORSON SPENCER, Chancellor.

Great Salt Lake City, April 17, 1850.

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HISTORIAN'S OFFICE
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
47 E. South Temple St.
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH